



Happy Wildlife Gardening!



Need more information?

Here are some places to look:

<http://dda.delaware.gov/plantind/forms/publications/Delaware%20Native%20Plants%20for%20Native%20Bees.pdf>

<http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants>

<http://www.wildflower.org/plants>

<https://www.ct-botanical-society.org/Plants>

<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/>

<http://www.gardenswithwings.com/plant/Aster/index.html>



Compiled by Elaine Schmerling, Village of Ardentown, the Arden Forest Committee and Elizabeth Varley. Thanks to Alex Zorath and Sue Barton for their help.



Partridge Pea
Chamaecrista fasciculata

An excellent soil builder, that establishes rapidly and provides erosion control and nitrogen fixation for slower growing perennial forbs. The showy flowers are pollinated primarily by bumble bees while short-tongued bees, predatory wasps, hover flies and tachinid flies suck nectar from glands on the leaf petioles. Blooms July to September.

Common Black Snakeroot
Sanicula odorata

Attracts small bees. Seeds are spread by mammals. Blooms May to July.



Beggar Tick or Devil's beggar Tick
Bidens frondosa

Yellowish-orange flowers turn into seeds that "hitch" a ride on your pets and clothing...however it is highly beneficial to wildlife: food for ducks, muskrats, honeybees and bumble bees; and shelter for various birds and frogs. Provides nectar for some insects and several moth caterpillars eat the foliage. Very vigorous, be careful it doesn't take over. Put it in areas where you are clearing exotic invasives! Blooms July to September.



Goldenrods
Solidago spp.

MOTH HOST PLANT

Goldenrods are attractive sources of nectar for bees, flies, wasps, moths and butterflies. Goldenrods have a number of species, some of which

are a reasonable garden size and not aggressive in their spreading. Goldenrod does NOT have wind-borne pollen. Giant ragweed is what triggers sneezing at the time they bloom. Blooms September to October.

Asters
Symphyotricum spp.

BUTTERFLY HOST PLANT

Many different species, that can establish rapidly on disturbed sites and fallow fields. The numerous blue, white or pink small flowers, are visited by a multitude of bee and hover fly species.

Blooms August to October.



Symphyotricum pilosum



Clymene halpoa caterpillar on calico aster
Symphyotricum

Beneficial Native Plants

...Or is that weed something I should pull out?

While many gardeners know there are invasive, exotic (non-native) weeds they should be diligent about removing from the landscape, not all "weeds" are a problem. Here is a list of some "good weeds" to leave in the wilder spaces of your gardens – and save time weeding!



Common milkweed
Asclepias syriaca
BUTTERFLY HOST PLANT

...Why? As we have discovered with milkweed, these native plants can be critical for our wildlife. Native bees and butterflies are in decline as we lose native plants every day to development, manicured gardens and roadsides, as well as competition from invasive plants.

Several of the "good weeds" listed here are host plants – meaning butterflies or moths lay their eggs on the plants, eggs hatch into caterpillars which then eat the leaves. Caterpillars are a tremendous food source for birds. Plants, insects and birds are all interdependent; we need keep them all healthy and happy.

Jewelweed
Impatiens capensis

A huge magnet for bees of all kinds and hummingbirds. Seeds eaten by birds & mammals. Some deer browse will keep it in check - spreads all over in wet years but easy to pull out where you don't want it. Allow it in wet meadows/wilder areas. Blooms July to September.



Common Blue Violet
Viola sororia

BUTTERFLY HOST PLANT

The flowers are occasionally visited by insects and can attract bees, skippers, Syrphid flies, and other insects. The caterpillars of several Fritillary butterflies feed on the foliage. Various upland gamebirds and small mammals occasionally eat the seeds. Blooms April to June.



Virginia creeper
Parthenocissus quinquefolia,

MOTH HOST PLANT

The berries provide an important winter food source for birds. Used as an ornamental for its fall coloration. At some stages foliage may be mistaken for poison ivy. Blooms May to July.



Blooms June to August.

Enchanter's Nightshade
Circaea lutetiana

Feeds small bees and a moth; birds and mammals eat seeds. Birds and mammals help to distribute the seeds, as the small bur-like fruits can cling to feathers and fur; these fruits can cling to the clothing of humans as well.



Daisy Fleabane
Erigeron strigosus

Many bees visit for pollen or nectar. Other insects feed on the foliage. Good for erosion control. Deer, rabbits, ground hogs, sheep, and other livestock occasionally browse on the foliage and flower heads. Blooms June to September.

Common three-seed mercury

Acalypha rhomboidea

Can thrive in disturbed areas and tolerates full sun to light shade. May seed in naturally, seeds are attractive to birds and mammals. Can be a good filler where invasives have been removed. Blooms July to October.



Canada Lettuce – *Lactuca canadensis*

Butterflies, skippers and moths feed on this foliage. Akin to garden lettuce, the young leaves are edible either in salads or cooked; slightly bitter. Blooms July to September

False Nettle
Boehmeria cylindrica

BUTTERFLY HOST PLANT

Has no stinging hairs like stinging nettle, but is a host plant for several caterpillars like all in the nettle family: Coma, Question Mark and Red Admiral, and one moth. Similar to *Pilea pumila* shown below. Blooms July to September.



Clearweed
Pilea pumila

BUTTERFLY HOST PLANT

Translucent foliage. Host plant for several caterpillars of butterflies and moths including: Coma, Question Mark and Red Admiral. Beneficial for a few other insects. Blooms July to September.



Pennsylvania Bitter Cress

Cardamine pensylvanica
BUTTERFLY HOST PLANT

Small bees or flower flies visit the flowers. Caterpillars of a moth are known to feed on the foliage and caterpillars of the butterfly Falcate Orangetip feed on the flowers, buds, and developing seedpods of these plants. Blooms March to July.

